

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the amended paragraph:

[0037] The stitching attachment between straps is further identified in FIG. 9. The edges 110 of adjoining straps are brought together and a stitch 118 is used to secure the edges together. The figure depicts a distance between the opposing edges 110 for purposes of illustration only. In application, the edges 110 are brought together. Further, the type of stitching pattern utilized will be dependent upon the application. When the straps are laid ~~side-by-side~~ side-by-side, or edge-to-edge, or adjacent to one another, then they are said to be abutting one another. In the preferred embodiment, the stitching pattern is a zig-zag pattern. However, other stitch patterns may be used ~~ad~~ and dictated by the specific situation.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the amended paragraph:

[0042] Addressing FIG. 11, the circumferential strap assembly 138 is shown. There are two such assemblies, a first and second circumferential strap assemblies, and one assembly fits to each end of the radial strap assembly discussed above. The straps used in the circumferential strap assembly have opposing ends as identified in FIG. 7 and are referred to here as elongated circumferential straps 140. Each circumferential strap 140 has a different length from the other straps. This is due to the fact that the circumferential straps 140 are positioned to form substantially a half sphere when laid edge to edge.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the amended paragraph:

[0045] To further illustrate this point, FIG. 13 shows the assembled flexible restraint layer 146. In this illustration, the guides 144 are disposed at intervals on the surface of the radial strap assembly 114 and the circumferential strap assemblies 138. The ~~selves~~ guides ~~are~~ 144 are sewn into place. The axial straps 142 fit within the guides 144. At both ends

of the flexible restraint layer 146 the loops 112 of the axial straps 142 extrude beyond the circumferential strap assemblies 138.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the amended paragraph:

[0048] Addressing now FIG. 15, the flexible restraint layer 146 covers the bladder 150. The restraint layer 146 and the bladder 150 are securedly fastened to the fore 152 ~~an~~ and aft 154 assemblies while the longerons 156 separate the fore and aft assemblies. Fastening of the bladder to the fore and aft assemblies is accomplished by known means such as the use of end rings and/or attachment rings. The fore and aft assemblies and the longeron compose the rigid structural core. In the preferred embodiment, there are four longerons 156, the fore assembly 152 is an airlock that is adapted to hold the strap loops 112 securedly in place by known conventional means such as the use of rollers or a bar, and the aft assembly 154 is used primarily for storage, but also has the same means for securing the strap loops 112. Also, the fore and aft assemblies are adapted to secure the bladder in place. In an alternative embodiment, the aft assembly 154 may also be an airlock. Further, in the preferred embodiment, the fore and aft assemblies are made of steel and the longerons are made of aluminum. However, this does not limit the use of other rigid structural materials.

Please replace the Abstract with the amended Abstract:

A flexible structural restraint layer for use with an inflatable modular structure, having a fore and aft assembly separated by a longeron and an inflatable bladder, ~~is disclosed and claimed~~. The restraint layer is comprised of two circumferential strap assemblies, each attachedly fastened at opposing ends of a radial strap assembly. There are a plurality of axial straps that are secured in place to the circumferential strap assemblies and the radial strap assembly. The restraint layer surrounds the bladder and the ends of the axial straps are secured in place at the fore and aft end of the modular structure. When the bladder is inflated, the structural restraint layer distributes the load created by the inflated bladder.